

WEST VIRGINIA CSP WATERSHEDS - SOIL TEST EVALUATION GUIDANCE

CSP requires that applicants comply with NRCS Nutrient Management Standard 590 to document there is not a water quality resource concern. Soil testing is part of sound nutrient management and tests are needed to demonstrate nutrient applications are based on sound agronomic standards. Applicants need to either demonstrate a history of soil tests for the fields they wish to enroll, **or in lack of**, demonstrate maintenance levels of nutrient applications which **document** there is not a resource concern. Following is the procedure to use to make this evaluation in West Virginia CSP watersheds.

1. Does applicant (1) have soil test data (no older than 5 years) for each field offered for enrollment, (2) are tests representative of field conditions ***, and (3) are the soil tests basis of the nutrient applications?

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|-----|-------|---|
| Yes | _____ | Stop, produce is eligible if yes to all 3 items |
| No | _____ | Go to question #2 |

2. For farms not applying manure, (1) does applicant have soil tests for at least 2/3 of the area **and** for any missing fields (2) are nutrient application records available, which show applications were made agree with the tri-state fertility recommendations for maintenance applications (based on crop removal for reasonable yield goals).

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| Yes | _____ | Entire operation is eligible if yes to both (1) and (2) |
| No | _____ | No to either, go the enrollment options in #3 below |

(Note: For farms applying livestock manure, given the high potential for high soil test levels, the applicant will need soil tests for each field to be enrolled.)

3. If no to questions 1 and 2, applicant can enroll only those fields that met the criteria in question 1 or 2 as a Tier I contract. Remaining fields are not eligible to be enrolled. In future years, these fields could be added to the contract as soil tests are obtained.

*** For farms with a large number of small fields (less than approximately 5 ac in size), fields may be lumped into a conservation treatment unit for testing purposes, *IF AND ONLY IF*, the fields have the same soil, slope, crops and management. CTU's for testing purposes should typically be no larger than 15-20 acres in size.

For farms with large fields, soil tests should generally represent 25 acres or less. Exceptions may be acceptable for larger fields which have a uniform soil type, crop and management.